Unit 3: Regional and Transregional Interactions
600CE- 1450CE (Post-classical)
How did trade networks in the post-Classical Era compare to the Classical Era?

• Silk Road

• Empire and state formation in China grew westward in the late centuries BCE, spreading the influence of Chinese culture and trade. Buddhism and Confucianism were well received in the area.

• Simultaneously, Alexander the Great's Empire was extending Hellenic influence (art, philosophy, religion, etc.) throughout the Middle East.

• The area west of the Taklamakan desert, east of the Caspian Sea and south of the Aral (what is now modern Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran) became a melting pot, blending the cultures of east and the west for centuries. After the rise of Islam (600 CE), the unification of states and empires in the Middle East allowed for expansion of trade between the two formally isolated (for all intents and purposes) entities
What new technologies, governmental policies, and merchant activities accompanied these developments?

• Pax Mongolica
• Camals

Improved transportation technologies and commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade, and expanded the geographic range of existing and newly-active trade networks.
What role did pastoral and nomadic groups play in these trade networks?

- Samarkand
- Pax Mongolica
- Kashgar

The Mongols regularly relocated craftsmen from one section of their empire to another at whim; they highly valued Middle Eastern textiles and European crafts and often transplanted artisans from their westernmost territories to Mongolia/Northern China so they could have their luxuries close to home. In addition, the Mongols had strategically placed relay-stations to increase effective communication between outlying segments of their empire. The increased communication and military movement along these roads caused them to become much safer for merchants to travel along
How did the **physical size** of post-Classical trade networks compare to the previous era?

- Umayyad Caliphate
- Abbasid Caliphate
- Yuan Dynasty
- Mongol khanates

Expanding networks fostered greater inter-regional borrowing while at the same time sustaining regional diversity. The expansion of existing empires—including China, the Byzantine Empire, and the Caliphates—as well as new empires like the Mongols—facilitated trans-Eurasian trade and communication as new peoples were drawn into their conquerors’ economies and trade networks.
What Classical era trade networks continued during the post-classical era, and which new cities were added?

- Novgorod
- Timbuktu
- Swahili city-states
- Hangzhou
- Calicut
- Baghdad
- Melaka
- Venice
- Tenochtitlan
- Cahokia

Growth of existing trade routes flourished including the Silk Roads, the Mediterranean Sea, trans-Saharan and the Indian Ocean basin, and promoted the growth of powerful new trading cities.
What **new technologies** enabled the growth of inter-regional trade networks?

- **Luxury goods**
  - Silk and cotton textiles, Porcelain, Spices, Precious metals and gems, Slaves, Exotic animals

- **Caravan organization**
  - Caravanserai, Camel saddles

- **new forms of credit and monetization**
  - Bills of exchange, Credit, Checks, Banking houses

The growth of interregional trade in luxury goods was encouraged by significant innovations in previously existing transportation and commercial technologies, including more sophisticated caravan organization; use of the compass, astrolabe, and larger ship designs in sea travel; and new forms of credit and monetization.
What factors encouraged commercial growth?

- Minting of coins, Use of paper money
- Hanseatic League
- Grand Canal

Commercial growth was also facilitated by state practices, trading organizations, and state-sponsored commercial infrastructures like the Grand Canal in China.
How did the expansion of empires & trade networks affect the relationship between peoples inside vs. outside those “zones?”

- China
- Byzantine Empire
- Caliphates
- Mongols

The expansion of existing empires as well as new empires facilitated trans-Eurasian trade and communication as new peoples were drawn into their conquerors’ economies and trade networks.
What were the effects of migration?

**IMPACT OF POST CLASSICAL PEOPLES’ MOVEMENT**

**PEOPLE:** THE VIKINGS  
**LOCATION:** N. ATLANTIC  
**SIGNIFICANCE:** VIKINGS USED THEIR LONGSHIPS TO TRAVEL IN THE OCEAN & INTO RIVERWAYS (USUALLY TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE PEOPLE THEY MET)

**PEOPLE:** ARABS/BERBERS  
**LOCATION:** SAHARA  
**SIGNIFICANCE:** ARABS & BERBERS IN NORTH AFRICA USED THE CAMEL CARAVAN TO NAVIGATE THE TRANS-SAHARAN TRADE ROUTES.

**PEOPLE:** NOMADS  
**LOCATION:** CENTR. ASIA  
**SIGNIFICANCE:** CENTRAL ASIAN PASTORALS USED HORSES TO TRAVEL THE STEPPE (MONGOLS, HUNS, ETC)
What basic understandings of environment and technology did post-classical traders need to conduct their business?

- Scandinavian Vikings
- Arabs and Berbers
- Asian pastoral groups

The expansion and intensification of long-distance trade routes often depended on peoples’ understanding of a particular regional environment and their subsequent technological adaptations to them.
What were the environmental effects of migration?

- Bantu Migration
- Polynesian Migration

Some migrations had a significant environmental impact. Migration facilitated transmission of iron technologies and agricultural techniques in Sub-Saharan Africa. The maritime migrations of transplanted foods and domesticate animals as they moved to new islands.
POST CLASSICAL MIGRATIONS

MIGRATION: THE BANTU MIGRATIONS
DESCRIPTION: THE 1000 YEAR LONG MIGRATION OF THE BANTU SPEAKING PEOPLE THROUGHOUT SUBSASAHRAN AFRICA. NOTABLE FOR SPREADING IRON WORKING, LANGUAGE, FARMING TECHNIQUES, ETC.

MIGRATION: THE POLYNESIAN MIGRATIONS
DESCRIPTION: DELIBERATE MOVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF POLYNESIA THROUGHOUT THE PACIFIC OCEAN. NOTABLE FOR CARRYING LANGUAGE, PLANTS, ANIMALS, ETC. PERHAPS REACHING AS FAR AS PERU!
What were the **linguistic effects of migration**?

- **Bantu Languages:** Swahili
- **Turkic**
- **Arabic**

Some migrations and *commercial contacts* led to the *diffusion* of languages.
How did trade networks as a whole develop in the post-classical era?

- Aided by better boats and better roads
- New monetary systems
- Lines of credit
- New accounting methods
- Cross-cultural exchanges were fostered by the intensification of existing or the creation of new networks of trade & communication.
Why and where did Muslim trade networks change?

- Dar al Islam
- Umayyad dominance
- Abbasid dominance
- Control of Indian Ocean and parts of Silk Road

Muslim rule expanded to many parts of Afro-Eurasia due to military expansion, and Islam subsequently expanded through the activities of merchants and missionaries.
What institutions did merchants create to foster both trade and cultural diffusion?

- Muslim merchant communities in the Indian Ocean region
- Chinese merchant communities in Southeast Asia
- Sogdian merchant communities throughout Central Asia
- Jewish communities in the Mediterranean
- Indian Ocean Basin
- Silk Road

In key places along important trade routes, merchants set up diasporic communities where they introduced their own cultural traditions into the indigenous culture.
How well did post-classical societies know/understand each other?

- Ibn Battuta
- Marco Polo
- Xuanzang

The writings of certain interregional travelers illustrate both the extent and the limitations of intercultural knowledge and understanding.
How did post-classical trade affect the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions?

• Neoconfucianism and Buddhism in Southeast Asia
• Hinduism and Buddhism in Southeast Asia
• Islam in Sub-sharan Africa and Southeast Asia
• Toltec/Mexica and Inca traditions in Meso America and Andean America.

Increased cross-cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions.
How did post-classical trade affect the diffusion of scientific and technological traditions?

- Hindu-Arabic Numerals
- Greek science and philosophy to Western Europe (Iberia)
- printing and gunpowder technologies from East Asia

Increased cross-cultural interactions also resulted in the diffusion of scientific and technological traditions.
What were the **biological effects** of post-classical trade?

- Disease
- Genetic mixing
- Ecological diversity

There was a diffusion of crops and pathogens throughout the Eastern Hemisphere along trade routes.
What new foods, crops, and agricultural practices diffused?

- Bananas = Africa
- Fast Ripening Rice = East Asia
- Cotton
- Sugar
- Citrus = Islam and Mediterranean

New foods and agricultural techniques were adopted in populated areas.

Muslim Agricultural Revolution

sorghum, crops from China such as citrus fruits, and numerous crops from India such as mangos, rice, cotton and sugar cane
What diseases and pathogens also spread via post-classical trade networks?

- Black Death
- Mongol Influence
- 1/3 to 1/2 population

The spread of epidemic diseases, including the Black Death, followed the well established paths of trade and military conquest.
How did state formations develop in the post-classical era?

- Expansion of Islam: Caliphate
- Pastoral (Mongol Statecraft)
- Aztec and Incan city-states
- Dehli Sultanates
- Italian city-states
- Feudalism
- Iberian Islam

State formation in this era demonstrated remarkable continuity, innovation and diversity in various regions.
How did post-classical states avoid the mistakes of classical empires in the regions where classical empires collapsed?

- Byzantine
- Sui/Tang/Song
- Patriarchy
- Religion
- Landing-owning Elites
- New methods of taxation
- Tributary systems
- Adaptation of Religious Institutions

Following the collapse of empires, most reconstituted governments and combined traditional sources of power and legitimacy with innovations better suited to the current circumstances.
What **new** forms of governance emerged?

- Expansion of Islam: Caliphate
- Pastoral (Mongol Statecraft)
- Aztec and Incan city-states
- Dehli Sultanates
- Italian city-states
- Feudalism
- Iberian Islam

In some places, new forms of governance emerged, including those developed in various Islamic states.
How & where did governmental diffusion occur?

- Persian traditions influencing Islamic States (satrapies)
- Chinese influence Southwest Asia, Korea, and Japan

Some states synthesized local and borrowed traditions

Japan Borrows From China and Korea

- Imperial capital modeled after Chinese capital city
- Pagoda architecture
- Tea-drinking customs
How did states in the Americas develop?

- Tikal
- Chichen Itza
- Tenotitlan

In the Americas, as in Afro-Eurasia, state systems expanded in scope and reach: Networks of city-states flourished in the Maya region and, at the end of this period, imperial systems were created by the Mexica ("Aztecs") and Inca.
What technological and cultural exchanges did states encourage?

• Tang China and the Abbasids
  – Compass, Porcelain, Paper
• across the Mongol empires
  – Silk Road
• during the Crusades
  – Greco-Roman influence

Inter-regional contacts and conflicts between states and empires encouraged significant technological and cultural transfers.
What were the overall worldwide economic trends?

- Guilds
- Urbanization
- Population growths
- Government reliance
- Commercial revolution
- Burghers

Changes in trade networks resulted from and stimulated increasing productive capacity, with important implications for social and gender structures and environmental processes. Productivity rose in both agriculture and industry. Rising productivity supported population growth and urbanization but also strained environmental resources and at times caused dramatic demographic swings. Shifts in production and the increased volume of trade also stimulated new labor practices, including adaptation of existing patterns of free and coerced labor. Social and gender structures evolved in response to these changes.
What new innovations affected agriculture in the post-classical era?
How and why did crops migrate?

• Byzantine Silk

In response to increasing demand in Afro-Eurasia for foreign luxury goods, crops were transported from their indigenous homelands to equivalent climates in other regions.
How did textile and porcelain production develop?

• European Demand
• Tang and Song demand for Iron

Chinese, Persian, and Indian artisans and merchants expanded their production of textiles and porcelains for export; industrial production of iron and steel expanded in China.
Why did some post-classical urban areas decline, while others prospered & grew?

**RISE & FALL OF POST-CLASSICAL CITIES**

This era is nearly 1000 years long. Some cities fell, while others emerged. Here's why...

**RISE:****

1. **INVASIONS**
   - Arabs, Mongols, Vikings, Huns, Turks, etc.
2. **DISEASE**
   - More trade = More Disease (Bubonic, Smallpox)
3. **DECLINE IN AGRICULTURE**
   - 1 & 2 led to inability to maintain foodbase
4. **“LITTLE ICE AGE”**
   - Cooling period led to decline in population & food production

**FREEMAN-PEDIA**

- Rome, Athens, Alexandria, Chang'an, Pataliputra

**FALL:**

1. **END OF INVASIONS**
   - Classical invasions ended (others yet to come)
2. **SAFE TRANSPORTATION**
   - Re-emergence of large empires facilitated
3. **RISE IN TRADE/TEMPERATURE**
   - Warming period predated “Little Ice Age”
4. **MORE FARMS = MORE PEOPLE**
   - Do the math... Food + Peace = Population growth
5. **MORE PEOPLE = MORE LABOR**
   - More people = more labor = more production...
What roles did cities play in their societies?

• OLD CITIES IN DECLINE
  – ATHENS, ROME, ALEXANDRIA, CHANG’AN, PATALIPUTRA

• NEW CITIES ON THE RISE
  – NOVGOROD, TIMBUKTU, HANGZHOU, CALICUT, BAGHDAD, MALACCA, VENICE

While cities in general continued to play the roles they had played in the past as governmental, religious, and commercial centers, many older cities declined at the same time that numerous new cities emerged to take on these established roles.
How did **social and labor systems** develop during the post-classical era?

1. **Free-Peasant Agriculture**
   - **FREE PEASANT AGRICULTURE** is what you probably think of when you think of peasants during the POST-CLASSICAL PERIOD. They were the majority of the population. *Peasant* comes from the French word *Peasant* meaning *countryside*. Peasants are typically small farm owning rural farmers. It later took on a negative connotation by the upper classes (e.g. *Bloody Peasant* – King Arthur).

2. **Nomadic Pastoralism**
   - Think of **NOMADIC RANCHERS** as **PEASANTS** without arable land. They follow their animals from pasture to pasture depending on the season. These people are generally associated with warrior-based cultures that became fearsome to settled people. They tend to move around 150 miles per year (in rotation). Examples: Cattle, Yaks, Sheep, Goats, Reindeer, Horses, Donkeys, Nerfs.

3. **Guilds**
   - **GUILDS** are simply a collection of craftsmen of a similar trade. They were originally organized similarly to a trade union or secret society. The goal of these GUILDS is to regulate their industry. GUILD members would be experienced tradesmen or “masters”. You enter the guild as an APPRENTICE, then becoming a JOURNEYMAN. Once you have created a MASTERPIECE, you then become a MASTER. GUILDS are a global entity from China, India, Persia, Africa, and Europe. The word GUILD comes from the Old English *gegild* meaning “payment”. By the 14th Century, for example, Paris had 350 guilds.

4. **Coerced**
   - Let’s not dance around the issue: **COERCED LABOR** are different ways to force someone to do work for you…
     - **SERFDOM**
       - In both Europe and Japan, SERFS work a specific plot of land for a LORD in return for protection. They are the lowest class of Feudal society.
     - **MITA**
       - MITA was Incan Corvee (unpaid, required labor). It was tribute owed to the Inca. Generally, people did large community projects.

5. **Government-Imposed Labor Taxes**
   - **TAXES** aren't new. Medieval taxes were paid to the ruling class (usually to the King). The tax was often on land or came in the form of custom duties (taxes paid on moving from place to place). A prime example is the GELD. It was raised in England starting in 1012 to pay for MERCENARIES. It was later replaced with taxes on personal income and property.

6. **Military Obligations**
   - As a part of **FEUDALISM**, a PEasant who worked the land of a LORD would owe military service for that LORD in return for land usage. The VASSAL (someone who pledged loyalty to a LORD) using whatever means they could attain, would have to defend the LORD’s territory. This was THE primary reason why the LORD entered into these FEUDAL relationships.
What pre-existing labor systems continued?

- Free peasant agriculture
- Nomadic pastoralism
- Craft production and guild organization
- Various forms of coerced and unfree labor
- Government-imposed labor taxes
- Military obligations

As in the previous period, there were many forms of labor organization.
How did social and gender hierarchies develop?

• As in the previous period, social structures were shaped largely by class and caste hierarchies. Patriarchy persisted; however, in some areas, women exercised more power and influence, most notably among the Mongols and in West Africa, Japan and Southeast Asia.
What **new labor forms** developed?

- Serfdom in Europe and Japan
- Mita system (Inca)
- Free Peasantry Resistance
  - China, Byzantine, European

New forms of coerced labor appeared during the Post-Classical era.
Who did some gender roles and family structures change?

**POST CLASSICAL DIFFUSION OF RELIGION**

**BUDDHISM**
- Confucian ideals of patriarchy clashed with Buddhist spiritual equality with little lasting gender change. (*Footbinding did begin in this period in China*)

**CHRISTIANITY**
- Christian convents (like in Buddhism) provided women a way out of the cycle of marriage/child rearing and provided a path to literacy & learning.

**ISLAM**
- Islamic teachings of gender equality (see Khadijah) were overshadowed by Persian traditions of veiling, seclusion, & the harem

**NEOCONFUCIANISM**
- Women were subordinate to men.

**NEOCONFUCIANIST QUOTES:**
- "Disorder is produced by women"
- "A woman ruler is a hen crowing"
- "Woman's greatest duty is to produce a son"
- "Women are to be led and to follow others"